



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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GOVERNOR

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COMMISSIONER

April 5, 2001



SDMS DocID 582512

Patricia Meaney, Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203 - 0001

Subject: State Lead Request, Burt Company Site, Portland, Maine

Dear Ms. Meaney:

The State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) hereby requests that the USEPA now list the Burt Company Site, CERCLIS #985468024, as a State Lead CERCLIS Site.

The property was discovered in 1990, being listed on CERCLIS June 25, 1990. A Preliminary Assessment was conducted by the State and completed on February 6, 1991. A site inspection conducted by Weston for the site was completed on February 23, 1993. Additionally, a Brownfield Site Assessment Report was conducted by the State and completed on February 24, 1999.

The Burt Company Site (the Site) is located on the boundary of a residential/ industrial area in the City of Portland, at 1 Cambridge Street. The site is approximately 3.1 acres in size and corresponds to the Portland Tax Assessor's Map 151-A as lot 13. The site and area surrounding it is served by municipal water and sewer. The site was the location of a billiard ball manufacturer from 1895, initially being operated by the Portland Billiard Ball Corporation. Later during its operation the company changed its name to Burt Company and added the manufacture of clay casino chips to its operation. In 1988 the company was reorganized as CHIPCO International, Inc. At this time, the company began manufacturing and printing its product offsite, and subsequently sold most of the manufacturing equipment and inventory. Since that time, the property has been vacant.

MEDEP's initial investigations into the Site began in March of 1990 after being notified by the Portland Fire Department that chemicals had been abandoned at the Site. The MEDEP subsequently sent notifications to the current property owner requesting that the property be secured and the chemicals properly disposed of. Although the site owner partially fenced the site, the owner did not indicate a willingness to properly address the

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hazardous substances at the Site; therefore the state conducted a removal action of the abandoned chemicals and contaminated soil between 1990 and 1992. During this time, a Preliminary Assessment and a Site Inspection was conducted for USEPA. No additional investigative or remedial actions occurred at the site until 1998, at which time MEDEP conducted a Brownfield Site Assessment of the Site. The Brownfield Site Assessment concluded that two areas of the site still warrant attention. These being an area apparently used for the disposal of chips, billiard balls, and dyes located on site, and an area of elevated lead and arsenic levels (above Maine Residential Standard Guidelines) located near one of the manufacturing buildings. Also during 1998 the City of Portland conducted an asbestos abatement of the property and razed all of the buildings located on Site.


The property is currently owned by the City of Portland, having taken the property for payment of back taxes. The City has stated they are exploring the possibility of using the property for athletic fields, and would work with the MEDEP in addressing the final contamination issues as the property is developed.

Given the information presented and discussed above, MEDEP believes:

- 1) That the Site is not an appropriate candidate for NPL listing, and no further steps should be taken to list the Site on the NPL at this time;
- 2) That the current State management of this project is sufficient to ensure that public health and/or the environment are properly protected;
- 3) The Site Status on CERCLIS should indicate that the MEDEP is the lead agency at this Site.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Brian Beneski at (207) 287 – 4858.

Sincerely,



Mark Hyland, Director
Division of Remediation
Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management

PC: Brian Beneski, MEDEP
Jean Firth, MEDEP
Matt Audet, USEPA New England